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Oriental Wistarias

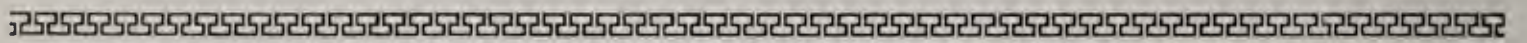


Unusual Varieties, never before
offered to the American Gardener

Propagated from Plants imported direct
from the Orient under Federal Permit



A. E. WOHLERT
THE GARDEN NURSERIES
PENN VALLEY, NARBERTH, PENNA.



Japanese maidens with racemes from the Ushijima Wistaria. Background is a canopy of thousands of such flowers.

Reprint from "Flower Grower," Albany, N. Y.



Wistaria

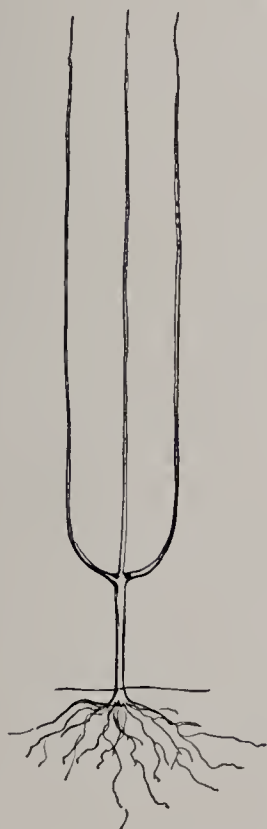
WISTARIA, one of the oldest and most popular vines in cultivation, was introduced to America in 1818 by John Reeves, a tea-taster. In 1825 a famous French botanist named it Wistaria, after Caspar Wistar of Philadelphia.

Because of its hardiness, its adaptability to all conditions of rainfall, soil and temperature, and its natural beauty and fragrance, Wistaria is unexcelled by any other hardy climbing vine. Its resistance to adverse climatic conditions is a blessing. The root system is ample and affords generous protection against prolonged droughts and cold after two years in location. Extreme heat occasionally burns delicate young foliage in the summer, generally the edges of the youngest leaves only. Twenty-five degrees below zero has not injured Chinese nor Japanese Wistaria in the vicinity of Mt. Kisco, New York, not even the dormant flower buds. The old vines were uninjured and bloomed freely after enduring 25 below zero for several weeks. The cambium did register injury.

In the extreme South they prosper and flower seemingly equally well, but I have no positive or personal knowledge of their behavior in New Orleans for instance. If the common Chinese thrives there, the long-cluster Japanese should do equally well.

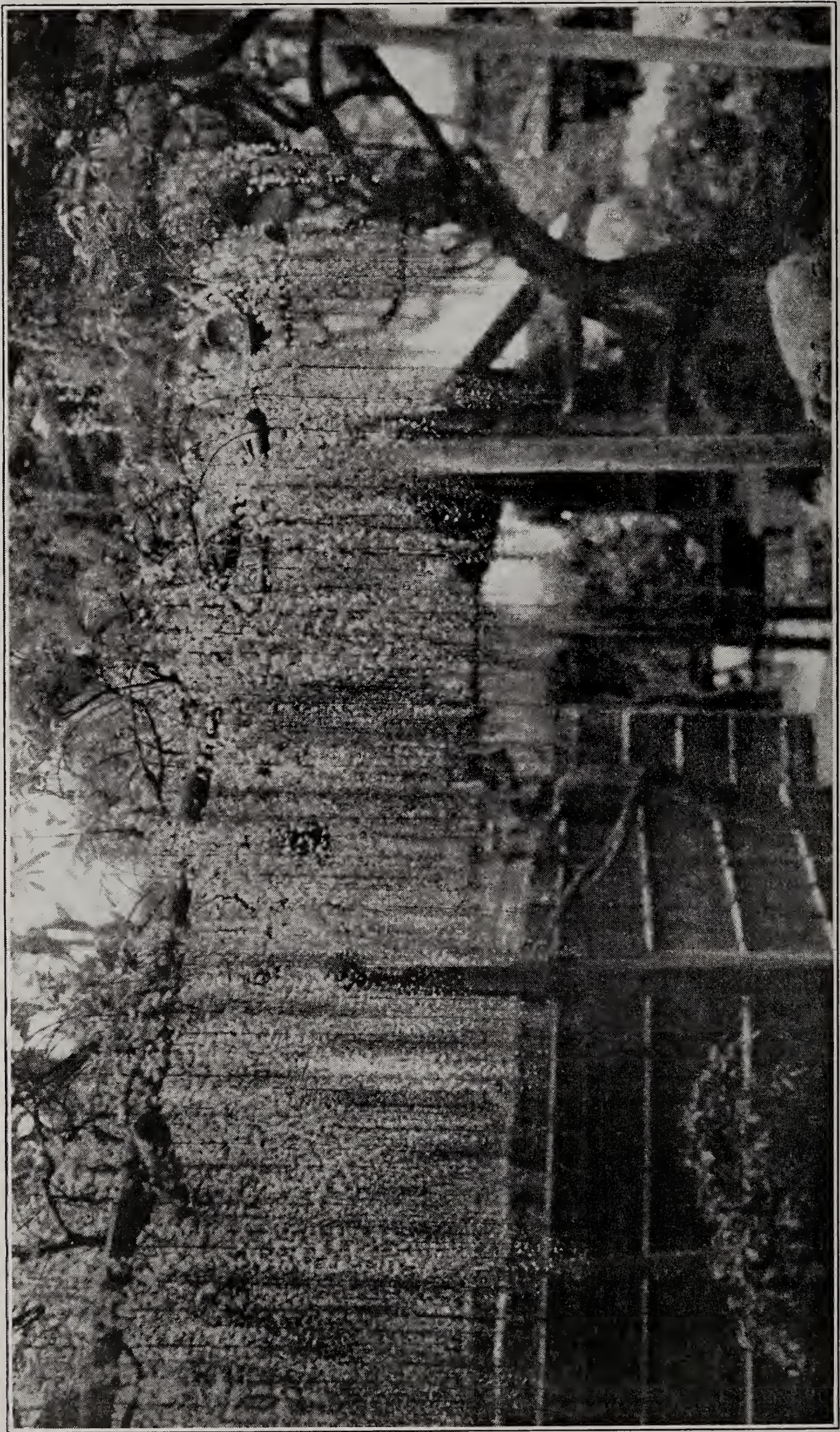
The extremely longcluster sorts require time to mature. They are not likely to produce flowers for several years, but are worth waiting for.

Wistaria is generally used as a vine, but may be used advantageously in tree, or standard form. With a trunk 5 to 6 feet high, it is effective for formal uses, and as smaller trees, for a garden entrance, or for accent in a formal garden. For this purpose, the vine is staked to a neat bamboo pole for the first 5 or 6 years because the top is at first too heavy for the feeble stem. Wistaria should be pruned before flowering each spring—that is, the past season's growth should be cut back, leaving not more than 8-inch stubs. The main advantage of severe pruning is that it makes longer and better flower clusters.



The above illustration offers a suggestion for training Wistaria vines.

When Wistaria is used as a vine to cover pergolas and trellises best results are obtained if not more than three leaders are permitted to grow up from the plant.



Wistaria Floribunda Naga Noda; Flowers 4 Feet Long.


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Pruning the vines should be copied from the system followed in producing espalier fruit trees, the branches supported and guided each by its own wire; the wires may be 24 to 36 inches apart, horizontal or perpendicular, according to fancy or convenience.

If the soil where you intend to plant your Wistaria is not so good as you would like it to be, and that is frequently the case near a building, dig a hole 2½ feet wide, 2 feet deep, and replace the old soil with new field soil, or improve the present soil with old manure, leaf mold, peat moss, and the addition of sifted coal ashes or sand if the soil is too heavy. Before planting the vines, fill in the new soil completely and dig a small hole in the surface after the new soil has been packed. Set your new vine 4 to 6 inches deeper than the graft. The graft can be seen as a swelling just above the roots. In the case of the larger vines, set them 8 to 12 inches deeper than before, tramping the soil firmly after spreading out the roots. In fair soil, no fertilizer is required for several years. If the weather is dry, watering should be done.

Wistaria can be grown successfully whether your soil is acid or alkaline, light or heavy, sand or clay. In sand they bloom sooner.

Regardless of age they will not produce flowers of worthwhile quality the first year. Some of the larger plants may produce a few undersize flowers. The Standards we list should bloom the second year. The Chinese Standards are almost certain to bloom the first season.

October, November and December are good planting months, as well as March, April and May. If potgrown vines are used, the planting season begins in March and ends generally December first.

Newly planted Wistaria are not likely to come into leaf promptly. Therefore, be not uneasy when the vines appear to be dead. Excess watering is no help. Shading with muslin and sprinkling with water may be an advantage, but probably not necessary.

Wistaria plants may be produced from seeds, layers or grafts. If a definite variety is to be reproduced, production by layering or grafting is necessary. Vigorous plants may be produced from seeds. Seedlings frequently produce flowers when they are six or seven years old, but occasionally it takes much longer before they get into production. A few seedlings here and there have not produced flowers during the first twenty years, but they should bloom some time or other, sooner or later. We are experimenting with a certain chemical, as there seems to be distinct indications that this chemical hastens production of bloom.

It is a very easy matter to make Wistaria grow after it becomes established. All you have to do is to supply fertile soil and ample mois-

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ture. If a young plant appears to be slowing up, and the young leaves are turning brown and appear to be scorched or shrivelled, it is an indication that it needs water, and plenty of it. Supply the water and the plant will register a rapid growth even if the soil is rather poor.

It is more difficult to get rapidly growing vines into production of flowers. For several years I have conducted an extensive study of this problem, and have finally discovered the reason for the existence of non-flowering vines. Wistaria vines, young or old, produce a vigorous, thrifty, spring growth because there is ample moisture in the soil after the winter. Therefore, the vine carries on vigorously until the 15th of June in the vicinity of Philadelphia, or forty-five days from the time it begins to grow in the spring. While the growth is not exactly finished for the season, there is generally a dry period with intensive heat on or about this time which causes the ripening of growth. Then early in July or later the weather changes, with copious showers weekly, and even daily, causing new growth. On this new growth, if there has been a stoppage of growth in June, a liberal supply of auxiliary flowers will be produced and continued production assured.

In sandy and comparatively poor soil the response to liberal irrigation, whether it be natural or artificial, is immediate and the production of flowers on three to five year old vines is practically 100 per cent. In more fertile soil of a heavier texture, the production of bloom is not so certain, but it can be artificially brought about if the vines are grown in pots. You can withhold excessive watering after the 15th of June, for twenty days, thereby producing similar conditions as were produced in the sandy soil under normal weather conditions.

If your vine is growing in fertile soil, such as is generally found in Pennsylvania, the greater portion of New York, Maryland and Delaware, you can produce such conditions artificially by severely root pruning your vine the 20th of June, or fifty days after the vine started growing in the spring. Dig around the vine, severing all the roots, 12 to 24 inches away from the trunk, making a complete circle, all depending on the age of the vine. Cut off the roots going into the sub-soil. Fill back the hole with fertile soil, or part old manure, tamping in well, and watering freely. Then you have reproduced artificially the natural conditions which bring about production of dormant flower buds and flowers.

It is well to keep in mind that after all it is desirable to get rapid growth and a sizable vine before you look for flowers.

Excerpt from article by P. H. DORSETT in May, 1935, "Flower Grower,"
Albany, N. Y.

"As Agricultural Explorer of the United States Department of Agriculture, I first saw these remarkably large, old vines on April 18, 1929, when the flower buds were just beginning to unfold. On my second visit to see them on May 15th, the two vines were completely covered with a mass of exquisitely beautiful, light-lavender flowers. At that time the many flower racemes measured, even though they had not completed their growth, from 36 to 47 inches in length. This unusual display of thousands of long, slender flower racemes, of a delicate shade of lavender, moving gracefully to and fro in sunshine and shadow, was most fascinating and excelled anything of the kind I had ever seen."



Reproduced from "Flower Grower of May, 1935. A close-up of "Ushijima," or Kyushaku. In Japan are found many varieties of similar general characteristics, differing slightly, in the density of the flower clusters, the size of the individual flowers, or in color.

STANDARD WISTARIA or WISTARIA IN TREE FORM

Wistaria grown in this manner have many advantages. The flowers are displayed to greater advantage; the trees can be used by gateways, as accent in formal gardens and as individual trees in border plantings. When one is anxious to get results quickly, the Standard Wistaria may also be used as a vine. Simply plant this little tree where you want the vine developed. By so doing you will get quicker results and flowers sooner than you would if you used our three and four-year-old vines, as most of the Standards are at least six years old. They generally produce the second year, if not the first, after you plant them.



Chinese Wistaria, Tree or Standard Form. One year after planting.

For your protection, we have adopted a non-removable tag as our warranty that the plant to which it is attached is true to name, in good growing condition and will be replaced free if it fails to grow. You pay transportation charges only, if the vines fail to make good, which is extremely unlikely.

My name and trademark is on every seal.



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JAPANESE LONGCLUSTER WISTARIA

Known Botanically as *Floribunda* and *Multijuga*, Longcluster or Weeping Wistaria is the most picturesque of all Wistaria and will certainly take the place of the common sort as soon as they become known. The flower clusters are very much elongated, the flowers being somewhat thinly distributed along the central cord, or stem, producing an unrivaled, graceful effect. The blooming period is approximately one week later than the Chinese. All fragrant, especially the white sorts.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA KYUSHAKU (Ushijima), a recent importation from Japan. Flowers "nine feet long." That descriptive name applied to the flowers is of course gross exaggeration from the prosaic Western point of view, but in the East flattery of this kind is always taken with a grain of salt. Flower clusters 4 to 5 feet long are not uncommon for this variety. Kyushaku produces probably the ultimate length of Wistaria flowers. We have the honor of being the first firm to produce this variety to American horticulture.

WISTARIA MRS. McCULLAGH. This is a rare and beautiful variety. Flowers are large purple in compact clusters; less vigorous than the others.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA MURASAKI NODA. Purple blooms, 24 or more inches long; strong grower, very free flowering. By the Japanese rated as "the" purple sort. "Murasaki" means purple.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA NAGA NODA, "the five-foot Wistaria." Extra long Japanese Wistaria. A variety of *W. Multijuga* with astonishingly long clusters of purple flowers. On a well-established vine they will run three to four feet in length. Three vines of this variety are known in the Philadelphia district, where they attract a great many visitors, all marveling at the freakish length of flowers. This variety has not been offered by American nurserymen for many years, but it is being introduced by us and has proven extremely popular.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA PENN VALLEY LONGCLUSTER. Racemes 24 to 40 inches long, of a good purple. This sort should produce flowers promptly, but it is impossible to state exactly when the first production will take place. The plants offered were produced from scions or cuttings taken from a flowering vine in Pennsylvania.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA PRAECOX (Issai)—Blue. Named for its tendency to come into bearing or production of flowers as young vines. Well managed three-year-old vines have produced very soon after planting as many as three dozen flowers. This is not a rank growing sort; very desirable where your space on the wall or arbor is limited. It is particularly an A-1 sort for pot culture; very easily managed as a pot plant. Likely to bloom immediately.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA PRAECOX—White. A white form of the above. Very fragrant. Excellent for pot culture, but equally good when used as a vine. Likely to bloom immediately.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA ROSEA (Rose Weeping Wistaria). An interesting variation; a favored color in Japan is this superior variety of Pink Weeping Wistaria. All vines are produced from selected stock plants. Flower clusters of medium length on young plants; 24 to 30 inches on established vines. This Wistaria with its

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lovely clear pink clusters is a real sensation. To meet the growing demand for pink flowers, we have introduced this desirable novelty.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA ROSEA ALABAMA. Sold to us as Rosea, but as the color is not a pure pink, but tinted with lavender, we have given this variety the above distinctive name in order to separate these two varieties that are otherwise quite similar. The habit of growth is almost identical. My preference is the pure pink sort. Named "Alabama" because that is the State of Origin.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA ROYAL PURPLE. Multijuga form, deep violet color, out of the ordinary and very striking. Clusters 15 to 18 inches long.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA RUBRUM. Deep pink or red. We have not seen this variety in bloom and have no first-hand knowledge of the size of flowers nor the color. Our plants came to us direct from Japan, from one of the better nurseries in that country.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA SHIRO NODA. White form of Murasaki Noda. Bloom clusters 24 to 30 inches long. Also called "Fringe or Lacy Wistaria." The plants offered were produced from scions or cuttings taken from a flowering vine in New Jersey.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA VIOLACEA PLENA. This variety is of great decoration value, largely on account of its impressive, substantial-looking flowers. The flowers are not unlike double Russian violet, a deep violet blue, and it is rated as being the deepest colored of all the double Wistaria. It is a distinct novelty of great value. Clusters of medium length.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA represents the type of Japanese longcluster Wistarias as raised from seeds. The type has produced numerous fine varieties of pure white, lavender, purple up to deep purple; the flower clusters varying from 12 to 18 inches or longer. We have a large field of seedlings from this type promising to produce many splendid specimens or individuals that are worth of perpetuating under names or number. We are offering plants of this type, but there are not two plants producing exactly the same size and color of bloom.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA ALBA. Same description as Floribunda, the principal difference is absence of color. A good pure white flower; clusters medium length. Fragrant as all white Wistaria.

WISTARIA FLORIBUNDA LONGISSIMA is raised from seeds produced from extremely longcluster sorts or garden varieties. Many of these seedlings produce flower clusters 24 to 30 inches long and frequently longer. From such seedlings are selected plants that produced the superior sorts we are offering. We have hundreds of this variety, but do not expect any two of them will be alike.

AMERICAN WISTARIA

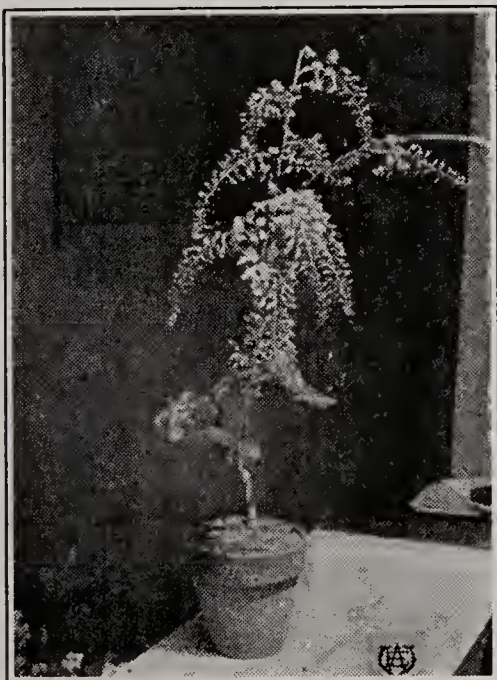
WISTARIA SPECIOSA (frutescens). Not as vigorous as the Oriental Wistaria. Climbs over trees and bushes to a length of 30-40 feet. Has dark green foliage and short racemes of lilac-purple flowers borne about 3 weeks after W. Chinensis. Racemes 2 to 7 inches long, about 14-flowered. Prefers low ground and is native from Virginia to Kansas and Florida to Louisiana. In full leaf while flowering. The horticultural varieties are **alba** with white flowers, and **mangifica** with racemes 6-8 inches long and 50 to 60 flowers one inch across. The flowers are lilac with a yellow spot, and borne earlier than the type. The clusters are larger and denser. A great improvement over the wild native type.

CHINESE WISTARIA

Wistaria Chinensis is excellent and the best known of all the hardy climbers; in many localities it is the only Wistaria known to the public at large. It produces dense, drooping clusters of pea-shaped blossoms approximately one foot long. The flowers are produced, according to location, between May 1st and 30th, but the fragrant flowers are freely produced in July, August and September if the rainfall is sufficient and abundant. This summer crop of flowers is carried on terminal shoots, while the spring crop is usually produced directly from the bud without the least foliage and, in a sense, is also a terminal. In the Philadelphia district the flowers are likely to appear in warm locations at the end of April or early May; in the latitude of New York City, between May 10th and 25th. Two varieties:

WISTARIA CHINENSIS—Purple, described above.

WISTARIA CHINENSIS ALBA—White. Practically identical with the Purple, the major difference is the color, but it is more fragrant—the most fragrant of all the Wistaria.



Pot-grown Wistaria: The larger plants in hand-made pots are five years or older, grown for several years in pots; cut back hard annually, before forcing. The plant in the machine-made pot is a three-year-old field-grown vine, potted in November and forced to bloom the following March, but not cut back. Correct management will permit larger pot or tub-grown vines for the conservatory or terrace.

A three-year-old Vine



The Utility and Beauty of a Wistaria Arbor as Demonstrated by the Outside View of One of them.
Chinese Wistaria Were Used.